

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas City DX Club

KC DX NEWS

ABØX-EDITOR

KCDXC Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/>

SEPTEMBER 2022

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NEXT KCDXC MEETING: SEPTEMBER 26TH -The next KCDXC meeting will be a zoom meeting. Start: 630pm. Our program will be a presentation by Scott Wright, KØMD, on DX. **NEW MONTHLY FEATURE: SHACK PICTURES!** This month, K4SX is featured. Send in your shack pics to the Editor: ab0x@kc.rr.com.



K4SX

K4SX, Ron, sent over some pics of his shack in Wright City, MO. Wow, is all that can be said! See page 7 for the second operating position. It is a well-engineered set up! Below is a pic of K4SX's latest award earned for ARRL DXCC Honor Roll:



KCDXC DXCC HONOR ROLL

Call	Mixed	CW	Phone	DIGI	IOTA	160	6 M	DX Challenge
AB0X	357	353	349	232		225	41	2382
N0RB	353	347	351				23	2269
K0CA	350	349	350	331	318	112		2631
N0CWR	350	349	350	326	975	202	66	2890
NX0I	350	349	347	271		211	6	2522
K3PA	350	348	345	319		188	36	2735
K0HQW	349	333	347			33		1352
AC0A	348	321	348	24	882		15	2288
K0VXU	348	335	331	265	439	143	2	2295
KS0DX	347	318	348	129	360			2218
K4SV	346	340	344	337		301	87	2852
K0GY	344	340	344	290			5	2295
KB0X	336							
K0AP	334	331	325	295		47	8	2353
W0QQ	334	246	332	230	151	115	355	1912
K4SX	331	280	320	187		52	82	1773
KE5BR	330	177	297	79				742
WA0WOF	330							
K0THN	329	314	284		179	1		
W0MB	327	252	325	279		45		1849
K0XM	326	292	275	225		113	24	1858
AA0MZ	312	290	292	220	532	44	20	1296
AC0C	310	306	267	243	160	128	3	1852
K0IZ	300		300					
NS0D	263	219	142	130		3	2	
W0XE	248	216	193	14				833
AI60	255	228	197	171		20	10	992
AD0K	257	242	85	85	196	35	4	1329
W0DR	225	30	174	70		10	7	622
N0EG	223	189	158	109		24	11	702
N9GB	203							
KS0AA	172	75	84	154		3		507
W0ZAP	140	37	75	110		18	2	382
WD0SRI	63	17	56			1	1	

Red indicates member is at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll in that respective class. Totals are with deletions. NOTE: When changes of DXCC totals are sent in to me, they are immediately updated in the next month here in the newsletter. Send to ab0x@kc.rr.com . Please only one update a month.

The President's Corner

September 2022

Chuck KØXM

Hi again everyone!!!

Well, we had a great meeting via Zoom along with the live portion in August. We had a discussion of Club Items and the website.

One of the major items was updating the list of Silent Keys. This is not an easy task, but homage needs to be paid. The club has some of the most respected members of the DX world, and we all pain at losing them, and I feel we need to remember. I had a hiccup with Mike Lonneke. I showed him as SK. Well, I have traded emails with Mike, who is VERY alive (He is now W4RN and will turn 80 soon) and he mentioned he might join sometime via Zoom.

One of the things we discussed is the YouTube tie in. It has been decided to not activate it. Due to various issues. So, we will not be having that avenue any more.

Another was a "members only" setup for those who are caught up in paying their dues. We discussed either the website or the Groups.io. It was voted that the groups.io will be going to paid members only soon. So, get those dues caught up folks. This was a very universal decision with all attending members.

This month we will have Dr. R Scott Wright, KØMD giving a presentation on his various Far East and South American travels and operations. Some of us saw his give a talk at Dayton>Xenia at the DX Dinner and he does a great and entertaining job. Don't miss it.

On tap for later is Reinhard DH3NAB the man behind RF-KIT Power Amps. He will be giving a presentation on at least the RF2K-S, and maybe any new toys. It looks like I may be scheduling that for the October meeting.

Until next month. CUL

73 es Good DX

Chuck KØXM (ex- NØBIW)

August 29, 2022

Kansas City DX Club Meeting Minutes

The August 2022 meeting of the Kansas City DX Club was called to order early by agreement of those present by President Chuck Kraly, KØXM at 6:45pm CDT (August 29, 2345 UTC).

Chuck pointed out that the regularly scheduled meeting time is 7pm but the Zoom

meeting room is open at 6:30pm for those who wish to chat.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Upcoming DXpeditions and Contests
3. Silent Keys
4. Top ten wanted DXCC entities
5. SWAG
6. Dues
7. Other

Introductions and Chat

- Kay, WA0WOF, will be going to Egypt later this year. Stay tuned for any possible DX operation there.

- Jay, W0JD, Nov. 5 KC Hamfest in Belton

- Charlie, K0THN, reported that club member, Charles “Duke” Neeland, W0QQ, was featured in the September-October publication for seniors Johnson County The Best Times. The article was about the history of the Olathe Naval Air Station, now the New Century AirCenter which began 80 years ago. “Duke” Neeland served there and other places during his long career in the Navy. Thank you for your service “Duke” Neeland.

- Dragan, K0AP, worked the KS QSO Party and has a new radio.

- Joe, KA3NAM, worked the KS QSO Party. Contact him if you wish to report your ten most needed DX entities.

- Lee, K0LW, has returned from trips to the Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the Huntsville, AL Hamfest. The W4DXCC DX and Contest convention will be held in Pigeon Forge, TN September 23-24. Other area hamfests are coming up soon.

- Dave, W7FB, has been watching cartoons.

- Mark, KI0I, made about 2,200 QSO's in the KS QSO party.

DXpedition Timelines for August

Chuck, K0XM again provided information from the DX World website for upcoming DXpeditions. Looks like several good ones are coming up this month. This information will be provided on groups.io. Chuck also uses the NG3K Announced DX Operations website for information. This information is also available on the <https://kcdxclub.org/dxpeditions> website.

Contest Timelines for August

The CQWW RTTY contest was mentioned.

One source for contest information is the WA7BNM online contest calendar. Check it out if you are not familiar with it.



Silent Keys

KØXM wants to get the Club web page In Memoriam section updated as best we can which shows those club members who are now silent keys. Send him your suggestions as to who should be added.

SWAG

The 3YØJ Bouvet DXpedition now is offering mugs, shirts, sweatshirts and other SWAG for sale to raise money for the effort. The KCDX Club logo will be imprinted below the DXpedition logo on these items. The link is <https://www.bonfire.com/store/bouvet-dxpedition-2023/>.

Dues

Pay your dues. It was decided that only those who are current on their dues will have their data on the DX Honor Roll published in the Newsletter. The goal is not to punish anyone. We just want you to pay your dues if you enjoy the services of the club.

It was also decided that there would be a members only page from where all newsletters will be available to members. Older issues will be available for non-members as a means of advertising our club. Webmaster Jay, WØJD, suggested that this membership required data be available on groups.io since it already has the password system setup. The website will be a club advertising page.

Other

WØAR contest results should be submitted at the end of the year.

Chuck, KØXM, reported that his article about DX Clusters has been published in the September/October issue of the ARRL publication NCJ (National Contest Journal). Check it out. It has some good history of DX spotting.

The next meeting will be held in the Carmack room at the Johnson County Library. On September 26, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Charlie Hett, KØTHN, KCDX Club Secretary.

PREAMP PRINCIPLES

BY KYØØ

Hello, testers and Dxers.

We hear all this talk about preamp this and preamp that. When should you run your preamp and when should you not. When should you run your attenuator, and when not? It's a matter of preference.

On HF, I don't run my attenuator at all, and I run my preamp 99% of the time. I'm one of these off-the-wall cats who has his hands into everything when running

Q's and mults.

What's the reason for a preamp? The stock answer in your question pool is "to lower the noise figure of the receiver."

If you're a new Dxer and contester, you'll ask "What did he just say?"

Everything on earth makes noise, because we live in an environment whose average temperature is between -40 and +100 degrees. The preamp drops the noise the receiver gets from whatever source it sees. I won't go into the sciencey part.

Most of the time, we want to know how much gain we get from that little box in front of the receiver. That's o.k, but we want to look at how much noise it makes in dB. On HF, this is not much of a problem, since signals are strong enough to overcome the noise floor. But on VHF, we need as much quiet as we can get. Signals are much weaker, there. So, the quieter the preamp, the better. We measure the noise the preamp makes in either degrees Celsius above absolute zero, (Kelvin degrees), or, in dB, which you know about. The lower the numbers on both scales our preamp tests out to, the weaker the signals we can hear.

With my present setup, a TS-2000X and an SSB Products SP-200, I run both preamps and my attenuator, to get the most gain with squelch set on two meters. Above two meters, I run everything with no attenuator. It all depends on noise and signal strength. As the warranty says, "Your mileage may vary."

Now, another subject. When I run weak signal, contests or DX, I run the preamps and no attenuator, then to make matters even worse, I turn off AGC. What?

I do this, and use my RF gain to manually adjust receiver operation. I do this for five reasons:

1. I can listen to the type of propagation that is occurring, which the AGC covers by keeping the signal level constant. This can mask weak signals, because the AGC is dropping the sensitivity of the system due to environmental noise. True, the level of most signals is constant, which MAY or MAY NOT provide better listening. I, though, like to hear the phase change, and the signal strength change, which give me hints on propagation types.
2. With the AGC and attenuator off and preamps on, I can adjust the RF gain for nice signal to noise I can't get with the AGC on. If I have a good antenna, I can hear a pin drop. Most modern receivers which have this kind of flexibility, will shine with these settings because of good circuit design and very high-quality variable filters.
3. When I'm looking for signals with a beam, there is what I call relative beam width with the AGC on, and actual beam width with it off. What I mean here is with the AGC on, as the signal changes, the AGC level compensates to keep the level close to the same. This appears as a widening of the beam width from side to side.. Turn off your AGC sometimes and try it. Remember to use your RF gain to lower the signal strength you get. This should give you you actual beam width, and that weak one easier to find on both HF and VHF. The bigger and better your

beam, the better this works.

4. The AGC causes the first dit or dah in a character to pop. This can be avoided with much lower RF gain no attenuator, good filter settings, and preamp on to lower the noise floor.

5. In CW and digital modes, most filters in receivers will ring when hit with too much noise. The AGC can't help here. It's not designed to do that. But, if I manually adjust the input with the RF gain, most of that goes away, and I can use a fifty-hertz setting on my TS-590S during CW contests. You can eliminate most of the ring and use narrower filter settings WITH your preamps and no attenuator.

This type of operation isn't for everybody, so if you find it unpleasant, don't fix what ain't broke.

Scanning the bands

This will be the last Scanning the bands segment posted until I can get on FT-8. This is because most of VHF operation has switched to these modes. This will also give me more room to devote to the subject in my articles. Once digital modes are up, I'll hear more and will resume the segments, since they're much quicker to get to you than national postings.

Remember—it's your news letter. Help Mike out with good contesting and Dxing materials. 73's,

KY00 See you next month.

K4SX Continued: Second Operating Position



DX NEWS & VIEWS

BY AB0X

The Summer of 2022 produced lots of DX openings on 6 Meters. Several club members picked up numerous new countries on the Magic Band. However, when one talks about DX, working the Middle East on 6 is quite an achievement from land locked Zero land. Take a look at following pic of a QSL N0CWR just received. Now that is real DX. Congratulations, Kevin!



W0AR AND N0SS CONTEST AWARDS

Remember, KCDXC members, to enter both annual operating contests, members must have paid their annual dues, by May, to participate in the competitions. Check our Roster page on our web page to make sure you are up to date on dues!

Now for news of HF DX Activity:

Just Released:
Dear friends,

The CDXP Czech DX-Pedition group is organizing another DX-pedition. Our plan for the year 2023 is: Republique du Congo - callsign TN8K. We are a group of 8 devoted and well-experienced HF operators. Our focus is to make as many contacts as possible with the amateur radio society. Emphasis will be on the lower HF band (160m, 80m, 60m, 40m) and 6m if there will be propagation. Of course, all the other bands will be used as the opening allows. We will operate 24/7 FT8 mode and old classic RTTY, which is in demand in the community. We also want to provide the real-time Clublog QSO stream to make our expedition funnier for the callers.

Our license with the call TN8K is already issued and in our hands. As far as we know, this will be the first activation of the TN8 prefix. We are also planning the first activation via QO-100 and the 60m band.

It took us four months to get the right contact with the licensing officer. And then another eight months to obtain a full license. First, we received two individual licenses TN/OK6DJ and TN/OK2ZI, which did not allow expedition operation of a group of operators, so we had to apply for a new group license. This process took a long time, so we had to rebook and pay extra for tickets from September 2022 to November 2023.

The whole team is COVID-19 and yellow fever vaccinated. Therefore, if there is no travel restriction, the trip should have no problem. We have secured a fenced QTH with dimensions of approx. 6000m², on a peninsula, in flat terrain approx. 500m from the sea. The accommodation does not have power from the public network and will be powered entirely by generators only. Diesel consumption for the entire stay is estimated at 1400 liters; a liter costs approx. 1 EUR/1 USD.

The expedition is associated with the costs we mainly pay from our sources, but part of them also covers the sponsors. If you like (and know) our past expeditions, we will be grateful should you decide to support us financially. We will return all funds to the sponsors if the expedition fails. The most important information about us and our trip is always here <http://www.cd xp.cz/> or here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472348776313779> . We want to boast that our team won the CASS Award (<http://www.cassaward.com>) in 2019, and we hold the world record for the number of unique call signs that worked during the expedition to this trophy. We hope to break our milestone again.

In 2022 we were awarded, by NCDXF, as the first team in the world, The DXcellence Award for our past S90K expedition. <https://www.ncdxf.org/pages/dxaward.html>
A small summary of the upcoming expeditions is below (page 3rd and 4th of the document).

We will be happy for your possible contribution, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

73! David OK6DJ and Karel OK2ZI

Contact: David Beran, OK6DJ Karel Odehnal, OK2ZI
antsat@email.cz ok2zi@atlas.cz

3B8, MAURITIUS. Dave, G4BUO, is now active as 3B8/G4BUO as of September 10th. He will be there until September 21st. Activity will be holiday style and has been on 30/20/15/10 meters using mainly CW. Watch between 1300-1800z. QSL via G4BUO or LoTW.

3Y0J BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION NEWS (Update). Co-Leaders Ken, LA7GIA, posted the following update on the 3Y0J Bouvet Island FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3093983840726129>), September 14th [edited]: "3Y0J team completed packing the container!! It will be shipped to Falkland island in a few days where it will arrive early November. Was a lot of hard work and long days but with this milestone completed we look forward to the adventure!"

5H, TANZANIA. As of September, Dr. Tevfik "Tev", TA1HZ, has started a new job at a project in Tabora, Tanzania. After getting the necessary license from the TCRA (Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority), Tev now has the callsign 5H8HZ. He states the following on QRZ.com, September 15th: "I will be on the HF bands, mainly in the evenings and every other Sunday. As I will be working within the project, I hope to be on the air during my spare time. QSL POLICY -- I will upload my log to ClubLog and eqQSL every week. LoTW application will be made and I hope to make it active in a few weeks time. Hardcopy QSL cards are NOT ready and you will have to wait until 2023 for the exact routing. In meantime, 'NO QSL VIA TA BUREAU', please as I am not using the Bureau. Any card sent to the TA QSL Bureau will NOT be answered. Sorry but that is the way it is."

5H, TANZANIA. Jeyaprakash "JP", VU2BGC, will be active as 5H5PJ from Iringa (WW Loc. KI72ue), Tanzania. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via LoTW or eqQSL. No other details are available.

5R, MADAGASCAR. Francesco, IK6QON, will be active as 5R8FG from Madagascar between October 8-17th. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using CW and SSB, with a multi-band vertical antenna and JPC-7 with 100w. He mentions that he will be on Nosy Be Island (AF-057) and Nosy Iranja Island (AF-57) and in the city of Diego Suarez which is in the north part of Madagascar. QSL via IZ6BRJ, direct or by the Bureau

5Z, KENYA. Wayne, 2E0FXV, is once again active as 5Z4WH from Molo, Kenya. As an Anglican Chaplain, he visits this African country several times during the year. Activity is mainly on 20/17/15 meters using SSB and FT8. This past week, Wayne was on 15 meters FT8 between 0600-0800z. QSL via 2E0FXV.

7Z92/8Z92/HZ92, SAUDI ARABIA (Special Event). Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) have activated the special event callsigns 7Z92ND, 8Z92ND and HZ92ND to celebrate their "92nd Saudi National Day" (September 23rd). Activity will last until September 25th. QSL all callsigns via HZ1SAR.

8Q, MALDIVES. Gianpi, IK1TTD, will be active as 8Q7TD from Fasmendhoo Island, Maldive Islands (AS-013), between October 2-17th. Activity is to commemorate his 25th wedding anniversary. Activity will be on 20 meters using Icom IC-7300, Rybcov vertical antenna and an End-fed antenna. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

9N, NEPAL. Robert, S53R/9N7AA, posted the following, September 10th, on QRZ.com (edited/excerpts): Back to the country. Need to work on the antennas for the coming season. CU soon! Below (on QRZ.com) are the final statistics for the 2022 6m ES season, which after all show a rather decent number of EU stations worked. If you haven't made it, see you next year and you should probably think of improving your setup, maybe changing the QTH, or finally decide on buying that amp. Nagging on the cluster won't help much ;)

The majority of EU QSOs are with zone 15, while contacts with Zone 14 and the north part of zone 15, were scarce and openings extremely short. Zone 20 is comparatively less difficult to work, however, the number of active stations is much lower than in Zones 14 & 15. Asia is of course much easier, which the numbers clearly show. EU openings on 6m are very random, few, and selective here - meaning only stations from a narrow/small geographical area come through at a given time, while simultaneously I've been heard throughout Zones 14, 15, and 20 with very decent signals. Always wondered how much the fact that I am positioned on the "wrong", Southern side and just under the massive 7000+ meter Himalayan wall, with EU exactly in the same direction, has to do with this very peculiar propagation phenomena. QRM continues to be prohibitive for any normal CW/SSB on 20m and below, where even FT8 struggles with signals heavily plagued by the local interference/QRM. Higher bands are surprisingly good with substantially less QRM. Please note that 60m is not permitted in Nepal. QSL via S57DX, direct only, LoTW and ClubLog are updated at least once a week. Please use (s57dx@yahoo.com) for PayPal requests.

VQ9, CHAGOS ISLANDS (Reminder/Update). Steve, WB4GHY, will be active as VQ9SC from Diego Garcia Island (AF-006) until November 16th (Approx. Date). Activity will be limited to his off hours from work. Operations will be FT8 mainly using Fox/Hound (F/H) mode and SSB on 160-10 meters. Suggested FT8 frequencies are 1846, 3567, 5357, 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 kHz. QSL via WB2REM direct (see QRZ.com), ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

THANKS, OHIO/PENN DX BULLETIN!

NEW 160 METER RECEIVING ANTENNA

BY WD0SRI & N0LID

Even though we are still struggling with 90 degree heat at press time, someday soon it will get colder and 160 Meters will open up again for us. About a year ago I posted a report on a new receiving antenna for 160 that used large steel receiving ears to draw in Top Band signals. KCDXC members will remember that it was quite large and had problems turning the big array around to peak signals off to the side. In fact, W0DR seems to have solved this issue by leaving his tractor connected to it at his QTH. Unfortunately, not every ham has a John Deere tractor or the yard space to build one. Harvey, N0LID, and I have worked all summer to build a smaller version that performs nearly as well and one man can rotate it pretty easily.

Look at the photo below and you will see what I mean. Contact me at

wd0sri@redneck.com for construction details and you can be up and on the air by the first frost and 160 Meter opening.

NØLID is shown in the photo with his new 160 Meter Receiving antenna. Each disc(Ear) can be rotated by hand controls of the op if signals come in at different angles or directions without turning the whole device. The antenna has been nick-named the Little Big Ear. Contact either of us for construction details. (n0lid@iconium.com)

I wanted to send out a special thanks to the Smart Family, Wright Smart and his XYZ, Ima Smart, over at the Warsaw City Dump for helping us scrounge up the steel to make the device. 73, Harvey & Skeeter



SEND IN YOUR STATION PICS!!

Remember to send into the Editor pictures of your shack and rig: ab0x@kc.rr.com
AC0KN will be featured next month and K0THN will be highlighted in November!

KCDX CLUB
KEEPING THE DAYTON TRADITION ALIVE!



